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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 16 December 1948

SUBJECT Semeonov Disagrees with Handling of Berlin Situation by Tyulpanov and the Soviet Army

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Dr. Helmut Brandt was offered the position of Lord Mayor of Berlin by Lt. Colonel Stavitsky around 26 November 1948. A few days later Brandt was asked to go to Babelsberg by V.S. Semeonov, adviser on Political Affairs to Marshal Sokolovski.
2. Semeonov told Brandt that he was in total disagreement with Colonel Tyulpanov and the Soviet Army's handling of the Berlin situation, i.e., the establishment of a rump Magistrat. At best the Magistrat would not last longer than nine months and, in its present form, could in no way claim popular representation.
3. In Semeonov's words, he did not want Brandt to accept the office nor have any CDU personnel be members of the Magistrat if they are intended for later use, since association with the Magistrat would be tantamount to political death.
4. Semeonov stressed the mistaken psychology of the army's handling of the situation. The army still did not face the fact that the SED and the Russians are unpopular. Semeonov is of the opinion that sponsorship of the SED should be dropped and that the bourgeois parties should be permitted to take over public offices. This is the last hope for the Russians to gain popularity.

Comment: Semeonov's attitude may reflect the vaguely expressed opinion of Molotov as reported in [REDACTED]

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